

Michigan Association for Purebred Dogs



Michigan Hunting Dog Federation



Position Paper – Senate Bill 225

Dog Shows - Michigan Tourism - Agriculture?

Senate Bill 225: This bill proposes the creation of an agricultural tourism advisory commission within the Department of Agriculture. The objective of the commission would be to facilitate and promote a favorable environment for the public to enjoy the many interesting and educational activities of Michigan Agricultural enterprises.

The Michigan Association for Purebred Dogs and the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation are both federations of clubs whose activities promote public events for evaluating the breeding and training programs of dog owners. Shows and trials sponsored by member clubs attract dog fanciers from all areas of Michigan, as well as a large number of exhibitors and visitors from the Great Lakes States.

A total of about 300 organized Michigan clubs are associated with these competitive events. These include all-breed shows, specialty shows for particular breeds, obedience trials, agility trials, field trials for hounds, retrievers, upland game, working breeds, sled dogs, and tracking events. Entries for these events number in the hundred of thousands annually. The total number of entries in all-breed shows, alone, in Michigan for November 2004 was over 10,000. Needless to say, each entry is accompanied by one or more adult handler.

Are these shows and trials agricultural events, or just miscellaneous tourist attractions? Because the department has the duty to regulate the dog industry, and has created a Companion Animal Advisory Committee, it is apparent that dog activities are indeed agricultural events, and should be included in the task envisioned by SB 225.

We believe that a representative from the dog industry should be included in this advisory commission to provide critical details about the many contributions the dog industry makes to Michigan's economy.

The Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs and the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation supports SB 225 if they can have some input into the development of the commission's actions and conclusions.

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Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership